BENGALURU, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

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THE END? Huge blow dealt by multiplex cinemas apart, covid-19 has almost sealed the fate of single-screen theatres in Bengaluru

THEATRES OF THE ABSURD

Collections at an all-time low

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Bengaluru has a rich cultural history associated with single-screen cinemas. Avid movie-goers thronged these establishments before the multiplex cinemas arrived.

Two weeks ago, the state government gave the nod to ease covid-induced curbs on cinemas, permitting the halls to operate in full capacity. Now, owners of single-screens are grasping at the last straw.

Despite the relaxation, the average 600-seater theatres are barely seeing 50 people per show. The proprietors of the establishments BM spoke to said people do not deem theatres safe despite the halls following all post-covid regulations.

Prior to covid, in the worst-case scenario, theatres were half-full but not a single movie ran into losses, we are told.

That said, before the pandemic, theatres were overshadowed by multiplex cinemas no doubt. Post pandemic, single screens are now on verge of tipping over. High dip in collections is the primary factor for worry.

Most single-screens have existed for more than 25 years but suddenly

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

“We are the spine of this industry and we were not supported during covid-19...

– Rajanna, owner of 3 single screen cinemas

Breaking bad roads

Classic case of incoordination between BBMP and BWSSB

| Sridhar.Vivan
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The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) are two agencies that seem to be not cooperating when it comes to civic works - a classic case of incoordination.

While one agency lays the road, the other agency takes no time in breaking the road for laying pipeline. This is despite talks of the coordination committee.

At 8th Main, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar in Bagalagunte ward, for more than five years, residents have been waiting for the main road to be asphalted as it had many potholes.

Finally, the BBMP showed up and asphalted the 8th Main Road last week. However, two days ago, the road was dug up again to provide connection to the BWSSB sewer lines.

Manjunath R, a resident said: “I wonder why can’t the digging work be done ahead of asphalting. Now, we don’t know whether this road will be asphalted again or not.”

Samyukta Reddy, a techie residing in the area said: “Is it a case of ignorance or lack of coordination. I wonder whether there is any exchange of project details between the two agencies. Even though BWSSB would fix the dug up portion later, still, it can not be like the original road. It is a loss to the residents.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Music under the stars

Catch A Square perform live this Saturday at Phoenix Marketcity. Formed in 2016, A Square is a known name when it comes to live performances. With over 200+ shows in and around Bangalore, the band has performed at almost all famous venues and events in Bangalore. A Square is a Bollywood and Sufi band known for their energy-packed numbers and for making their audience groove along as they take them to their world of music.
Where: Courtyard Phoenix Marketcity
When: Feb 26, 6pm onwards
Entry: Free

02 A market with a cause

Indiranagar SOCIAL is all set to host Culture Chutney in collaboration with The Art & Flea Project. This is a two-day eco flea Festival at Indiranagar SOCIAL, featuring sustainable brands and artists' market, handpoke tattoo artists, tarot card reading, live graffiti and more. The idea behind this festival is to mobilise the idea of sustainability and build a pan-India community of homegrown talent who want to play a role in making conscious lifestyle choices and drive others to do the same.
Where: SOCIAL, HAL 3rd Stage
When: Feb 26 – 27, 12 to 8 PM RSVP: insider.in

03 Questions and more

Ever heard these voices in your head? What do I really believe in? What if I had chosen a different life for myself? Do I really need to be happy, always? Do I have enough time? Kinaaya Collective invites you to experience this journey of every being -- Manav Kaul's Ilhaam, directed by Deevas Gupta. Original music composed by Jataveda and original songs by Deevas Gupta. 90 minutes.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: Feb 26 and 27, pm, 5 pm and 7.30 pm
Tickets: 9886294444

Nurturing the city's young minds

Schoolgirls experiment with different instruments at the exhibition titled 'India's Achievements in Science & Technology', held at Visvesvaraya Industrial and Technological Museum on Kasturba Road, in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

Ukraine turmoil keeps oil prices on the boil

Edible oil prices going up as sunflower seeds are imported from Ukraine and Russia

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The Ukraine-Russia crisis might soon cause a ripple effect in the kitchens of Bengaluru if the war cries at the Ukrainian border continue. Traders in the city say that the price of edible oil -- especially sunflower oil -- is increasing and prices are set to hit the roof if there is a war.

Haris A, who runs a retail shop said: "The price of sunflower oil is now Rs 135, which is up by Rs 5 from last week. Our distributors are saying that the prices may go up more if there is a war as maximum sunflower seeds are imported from Ukraine and Russia. Now, we are hoping that there is no war."

Prashant S, who runs a wholesale business said that edible oil price has been fluctuating since last year. "It had earlier hit a new high at Rs 150-plus per litre. However, with the intervention of the Centre, the prices started falling to Rs 130 per litre. However, now the war cries are impacting the edible oil market."

According to the Centre, the economies of the world have witnessed a slowdown due to Covid-19 pandemic. To lower the prices of edible oils, the duty on Crude Palm Oil (CPO) was cut by 5 per cent last year from June 30 2021 until 30th September 2021. This reduction had brought down the effective tax rate on CPO to 30.25 per cent from the earlier 35.75 per cent.

The prices of edible oils are affected by mismatch in demand and supply. The increase in the international prices of edible oils, shortfall in domestic production owing to adverse weather conditions, seasonality, increased transportation costs, supply chain constraints etc are some of the many factors that affect prices.

Citizens throng Bengaluru's famous city market where edible oil and other commodities are often found at subsidised rates

Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) on Monday appealed to its members to reduce minimum retail price of cooking oils by Rs 3-5 per kg

Sources said that the domestic production of edible oils in the country was unable to meet the domestic demand and the country had to rely on imports to meet the shortfall. The import of edible oils was under open General Licence (oGL).

Meanwhile, Solvent Extractors Association of India (SEA) SEA on Monday appealed to its members to reduce minimum retail price (MRP) of cooking oils by Rs 3-5 per kg with immediate effect in order to give relief to consumers. This is the second time the industry body requested its members to slash the MRP.

Last time, it had asked its members to reduce MRP on edible oils by Rs 3-5/kg around Deepavali in November 2021. India, which meets more than 60 per cent of its edible oils demand through imports, has taken several steps like reducing import duty on palm oils, imposing stock limits in the last few months, to keep domestic retail prices under check. Despite these proactive efforts of the government, all-India average retail prices continue to rule higher than the year-ago periods.

"These prices are showing no immediate signs of moderating and some exporting countries like Indonesia have also started regulating exports of palm oil by way of licensing," the SEA said in a statement. Global edible oil prices are skyrocketing and this 'imported inflation' is not only giving sleepless nights to all stakeholders but also to the hapless Indian consumers, it said.

Further, tensions in the Black Sea region between Russia and Ukraine are adding fuel to the fire into the sunflower oil complex which comes from that region. Inclement weather in Brazil on account of La Niña has also reduced soya crop drastically in Latin America, it added. Given this global situation, SEA said though its members were struggling to maintain a smooth supply chain of edible oils, they were aligned with the proactive decisions of the government.

SEA said it has "requested and advised their members to reduce Minimum Retail Price by Rs 3,000 to 5,000 per tonne (Rs 3 to 5 per kg) on edible oils, with immediate effect to soften the prices".

The industry body also mentioned that the domestic mustard crop is shaping quite well and it is expecting a record crop during the current year which may help in bringing some relief to consumers. Besides, the government has been very proactive in taking prompt measures to cool down the prices before the new mustard crop starts hitting the market yards. The recent reduction in import duty on crude palm oil (CPO) by 2.5 per cent is a case in point.

(With inputs from agencies)

Actor Chetan arrested over his tweet

City police on Monday arrested the Sandalwood actor Chetan Kumar after he allegedly tweeted about one of the sitting Karnataka High Court judges part of the three-judge bench hearing the batch of pleas against the hijab ban on campuses.

Seshadripuram police on Monday registered a Suo Moto case and booked him under IPC section 505 (2) (intent to incite a class or community to commit offence against another class or community) and Section 504 (Intentionally insulting, thereby giving provocation to any person to break public peace).

Police said that the actor on February 16 tweeted questioning Justice Krishna Dixit of the High Court on the recent judgment. Mentioning another case where he had earlier tweeted: "This week KA High Court Justice Krishna Dixit grant pre-arrest bail to rape-accused Rakesh B claiming 'It is unbecoming of Indian woman to sleep after rape; that is not way women react when they are ravished'. Police said that he would be produced before the judicial magistrate.

KL Rahul donates ₹31 L to 11-yr-old

In a heart-warming gesture, Indian opener KL Rahul has come to the rescue of an 11-year-old budding cricketer, needing an urgent bone marrow transplant (BMT) to treat a rare blood disorder.

Varad, a Mumbai schoolboy, needed a bone marrow transplant to treat a rare blood disorder

Since September 2021, Varad, a schoolboy from Mumbai, who aspires to don a jersey of the Indian cricket team, had been under the care of hematologists at Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital. In December, Varad's parents Sachin Nalawade, a, and Swapna Jha, started an online fundraising campaign to raise Rs 35 lakh for their son's treatment.

Rahul's team got in touch with them as soon as they came to know about Varad. Rahul donated a generous Rs 31 lakh of the 35 lakh required for the procedure. Varad was operated upon, and he is now recuperating.

"I am glad that the surgery was successful, and he is doing well. I hope Varad gets back on his feet at the earliest and goes on to achieve his dreams," Rahul said in an official statement.

Swapna said: "We are thankful to KL Rahul. Had it not been for him, it would have been impossible to go ahead with the transplant in such a short period."

A lit makeover for Cubbon Park

Bengaluru Smart City Limited will add LED lights to the park's many vantage points at a contract of Rs 51 lakh

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Cubbon Park, a historic space that is also known as the city's lungs, is going to get a makeover in terms of coloured LED lights, courtesy Bengaluru Smart City Limited (BSCL), at a contract of Rs 51 lakh. Over the years, the maintenance of the park had gone down, although footfall has remained consistent throughout the years.

Authorities want age-old statues to get more visibility with the help of the lights

Some of the locations like Rani Park, state central library, statues of Queen Victoria, Sir K Sheshadri Iyer and three others would be getting LED lights. The idea is to put up lights to give the park a new look, while highlighting the age-old statues.

BSCL has given the contract to a private firm. Three days ago, a demo was done at Queen Victoria's statue and the central library and the place looked well-lit. A contract of Rs 51 lakh has been given out. BSCL Chief Engineer Vinayak Sugur said: "The area around the library is dark during the nights when people are passing by; the LED lights will provide some lights and also enhance the library during the night. Similarly, not many observe the statues; we will provide lights to the historic statues during the night to highlight it."

Rani Park which is a part of Cubbon Park and located close to the main road will also be lit up. According to the officials, the lights alongside the Rani Park will give it a more aesthetic appeal. As many age-old trees are present alongside the Rani Park, it is said to make the trees even more spectacular during nights.

"We are trying to come up with new ideas to upgrade the park. We will not make too many major changes to the park which might spoil it's beauty or the heritage of it," said Sugur.

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THE CONNECTION ISSUE

Nearly three weeks later, Karumariamman Nagar residents are still without drinking water due to BWSSB works. Meanwhile, an "associate" of the MLA is hounding them for cash

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BWSSB has been laying water pipelines along 2nd Cross in Karumariamman Nagar, in Kushalnagar. The locality here is home to at least 60 residential buildings and cluster compounds(sites/plots with multiple houses), many of which are often occupied by five or more families. Due to the ongoing works, these families do not have a working supply of drinking water today. But the lack of a working water connection isn't the only problem here.

Residents had been granted a connection and metres seven years ago. Today, 24 houses need to replace old connections and metres with new ones while some do not have a connection at all. Karthik, a man who claimed to be a close associate of MLA Akhanda Srinivasa Murthy, reportedly demanded residents pay Rs 9,000 to him to replace old connections with new ones. And he asked those without any connections to pay Rs 15,000 for new ones, it is said.

"Karthik approached every door... It was extortion and goondagiri in the name of civic work," Sanaullah, a resident, told BM.

Another resident alleged Karthik was working with the contractor incharge of the pipeline works. They alleged the contractor went on leave in the middle of the project citing his wife's illness as an excuse while stalling the works.

"This is when Karthik approached residents to negotiate... He took amounts ranging between Rs 20,000 to Rs 40,000 from some homes. Initially, he demanded Rs 9,000 per cluster compound. Later, he agreed to Rs 8,000," said Syed Risalath Jha, leader of a cluster compound.

Pipeline works had been paused for a bit, but resumed on Tuesday

Jha is of the view, this situation is a result of a lack of corporators and civic projects being carried out by MLAs and MPs at the behest of contractors.

Jha has spoken to all residents and the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) Harinath about this issue. After Jha's inquiry, the AEE appointed an inspector, Ibrahim, and a lineman to visit the spot and inspect the houses. The AEE has assured residents they are going to get new water connections free of cost. The department will only charge a nominal fee to install new metres, Jha told BM.

But is the issue resolved? Until Tuesday, the work had been stalled, residents said.

"It's been nearly three weeks since the area has been struggling without water. They(the contractor and Karthik) have been delaying the work as they expect money from us," Sanaullah alleged.

> **Karthik approached every door... It was extortion and goondagiri in the name of civic work**
>
> –Sanaullah, a resident

Residents have lost patience and do not trust that work will continue smoothly here on . They've decided to take care of things on their own end.

"We spoke to the families and collected Rs 1,500 to Rs 3,000 from each family to pay the workers deployed by BWSSB to restore our water connections," Sanaullah said.

MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy told BM, residents must report Karthik to the police. "I have spoken to the engineers and instructed them to give water connections to everyone. I have also informed residents that if anyone collects money from them they must beat him up and hand him over to the police," Murthy said.

BMRCL is rootin' for a greener Bluru

... by developing forests, planting hundreds of trees using the Miywaki method

Akira Miyawaki, a Japanese naturalist, and his unique forest concept seems to have inspired BMRCL. Namma Metro is set to prove its interest in promoting afforestation in the city by developing forests using Miywaki's method to increase Bengaluru's green cover.

The technique pioneered by Miyawaki helps build dense, native forests by ensuring plant growth is 10 times faster and the resulting plantation is 30 times denser than usual.

It is also known for developing different local species of plants and trees in small areas to grow a forest. Through this method, plants will grow into trees within two to three years and help in mitigating temperature, sound, and pollution in the city. Such a forest has already been developed in Bidadi.

BMRCL is conducting a survey to develop the Miyawaki forest. In Bidadi, a Japanese team visited the spot and developed the forest. As an effort of compensatory forestry in the city, BMRCL is planning to develop Miyawaki forests in available lands. By the end of this month, it might get more clarity on this. It plans to implement this project as a CSR collaboration.

A file pic of a Miyawaki forest

"But before that, we need to identify the lands. We have identified land near ISKCON for the first stage of development. Increasing urban greenery is the basic idea behind this. We have already planted 60,000 trees in compensatory afforestation. We are also thinking of other options," said BMRCL's General Manager of IT and Social and Environmental Management Divya Hosur.

> **This project can help mitigate temperature and sound and air pollution in the city**

The GM explained BMRCL will plant hundreds of plants in half or one acre of land and wait for the monsoon, observe the plants for six months then follow the method in other places in the city.

—Prakash VL

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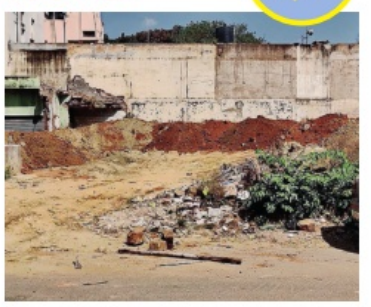

This site, despite ongoing construction work, has not been barricaded. The material for the works are dumped on the footpath and the road is generally dusty due to this. It has been this way for two years. BBMP must take action against this.

In a fix
Jayanagar

Residents wonder why 9th Main in 36 A Cross, 5th Block was broken for works when the road seemed to be in a good condition until yesterday.

Black spot
Fraser Town

Folks have been dumping bags of waste and discared bathroom fittings like toilet seats at this spot on Cleveland Road. BBMP workers have also been sweeping piles of dry leaves and dust towards this corner. The spot, bang in the middle of a residential street, stinks and blocks a major portion of the only footpath along the road.

No time to be smart, make do with shoddy

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Millers Road residents allege there is lack of coordination between BSCL, other agencies

The slow paced work of Bengaluru Smart City Limited's (BSCL) on Millers Road extension project is giving a hard time to the residents and commuters. According to residents, in what appears to be a race against the clock, the officials now are hurtling to wrap up the work, even if it means haphazardly.

Residents say that the work on the stretch began more than two years ago and while the officials claim that the project is on the verge of completion, the reality on-ground is contrasting.

Incomplete footpaths, unresolved water leakages, patchy road work and erratic planning have created many problems for commuters and residents.

Vexed with the work happening at a snail's pace for the last 24 months, residents say they have a potpourri of problems at hand.

Locals opine that the Smart City engineers have not been diligent and have not paid attention to the quality of work. They also pinpoint at total lack of coordination among civic agencies.

Susan P, another resident, says the stretch has had a leaking water pipe for many years now and gallons of water is flowing down the drains every day.

"On some days, the pipe bursts open. However, the pavement work around the leaking pipe is complete without any attempt made to fix the leak."

Locals also complain that despite the High Court's ban on late-night construction activities, workers dig up the road, disturbing the neighborhood.

Permission issue

The ongoing work, according to the residents, has made navigation through some parts of the stretch a nightmare.

"The area under the railway overbridge is far from being complete and has become accident-prone. One can see a dug-up footpath with pipes sticking out. The road is a downwards slope with loose gravels and this has led to multiple road accidents in the last two years," said Sharath, another resident.

According to Smart City officials, any work in the area under the railway overbridge requires permission from the South Western Railways and authorities of both departments are working towards ironing out a few details. "We are waiting for a NOC from the Railways. We have approached them, and they have extended their full support. It is only a matter of time before we will start the work," said Vinayak Sugur, chief engineer, BSCL.

Bangalore Mirror

How Smart is Millers Road?

'Laying of additional 45 cm pipeline causing delay of Millers Road Smart City works'

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the continuing delay in ongoing works at Millers Road causing a barrage of problems to

We have been keep an eye on the progress or lack of it of Smart City work on Millers' Road

Willy-nilly work

Whether it is about mindless landscaping integrated with pavements or haphazard tree plantation in the median of the stretch, BSCL's poor planning has irked the citizens.

"They have planted tall plants in the narrow pavement in front of Cantonment Railway Station. There is no way for commuters to alight a bus on the stretch without walking over the plants," said Susan.

Sharath added that the median floor is left covered under thick impenetrable concrete. The BSCL contractor had started the tree plantation work by pouring two inches of soil over the concrete.

They stopped the work only after the residents intervened. Post that, the median is lying unattended, he added.

According to Sugur, the work is almost complete and the BSCL is aiming at wrapping up the project by March 15. "The contractor was moving slowly so far.

With regards to the stormwater drain not being at the same level as the road, the work is still in progress. Once the final layer is added, it will be in line with the stormwater drains."

Govt agencies taken to task over 'delay' in tracing missing kids

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The Karnataka High Court issued a notice to the State government and a few officials over an accusation against the government's "delay" in tracing over 100 children missing from government-owned Child Care Institutions (CCIs).

The division bench was headed by Chief Justice Suraj Govindaraj after K C Rajanna, a resident of Kolar, filed a PIL over delay in tracing of the missing children.

Petitioner Rajanna had obtained information under the RTI Act, which shows that out of 420 missing cases registered between the period of October 2015 to October 2021, about 141 children have not been traced by the police or other government agencies.

According to Adv Umapathi, the respondents named in this PIL are the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Additional Chief Secretary, Women and Child Department, Director, Integrated Child Protection Scheme, and Director General and Inspector General of Police .

Petitioner Rajanna also stated in his PIL that he is filing the petition on behalf of the guardians of the untraced children as most of them are poor, illiterate and are incapable of following up with the authorities.

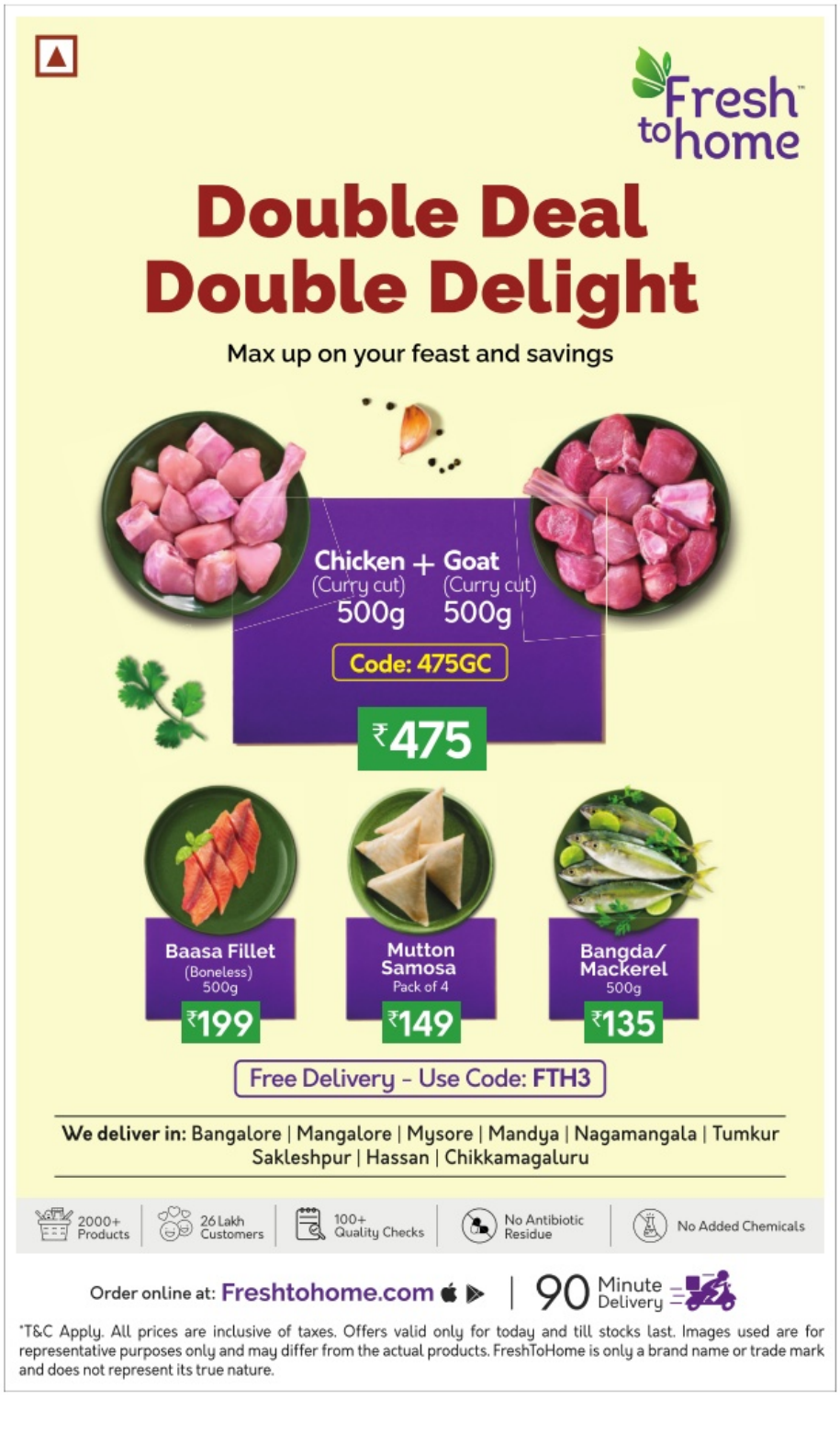
He was also alleged in the PIL that the government agencies are not following the standard operating procedures for tracing missing children as mandated by the Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.

The missing children are usually exploited after they go missing from Child Care Institutions, the PIL stated, adding that some of them are forced into child labour in India or abroad.

Missing girl children are also used in sex trafficking, the PIL stated.

After admitting the petition, the High Court directed the respondents to file a status report within two weeks.

The case has been adjourned till March 9.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I Amanullah Khan S/O, Ayub Khan R/o #121, Sadiq Layout, Saraipalya Thanisandra, Banglore North, Banglore - 560077 have changed my name to Aman Ulla Khan

I, REKHA PANDEY VINOD W/o Sudhir Kumar Pandey residing at Flat No.B046, GRC Brundavan ITI Layout, R.R Nagar, Bangalore-560039 have changed my name to REKHA PANDEY vide affidavit dated 18.02.2022 sworn before notary D.S Chandrakanth, Bangalore.

I, hitherto known as Pramod kumar S/o Late Dwarika Singh R/o No- 7174, Tower 7, Prestige Sunrise Park , Gollaballi Village, Electronic City, Phase 1, B'luru- 560100 have changed my name and Shall hereafter be known as Praamod Kumar

I Sagar Shetty S/o of Kodavoor Dattatreya Shetty R/o Gottigere, Bengaluru has changed my name from Sagar Shetty Dattatreya Shetty to Sagar Shetty for all future purposes

I, Vinay Rajendar Kumar Bhatnagar R/o Flat no. D-1404, Vajram Tiara, Avalahalli, Doddaballapur road, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064. have changed my name to Vinay Rajendra Bhatnagar

I, VISHNU BHANDARI DIL BAHADUR S/o Dil Bahadur Bhandari residing at No.2, Bhandari House, Thavarekere Drc post, behind Anjaneya temple road, Bangalore-560029 have changed my name to VISHNU BHANDARI vide affidavit dated 21.02.2022 sworn before notary D.S Chandra kanth, Bangalore.

I Chandrashekara Nagarajappa S/O, Nagarajappa R/o N0-12,4th Cross,sharadamba Nagar, jalahalli,bengaluru-13 have changed my name to Chandrashekar Nagarajappa for all purposes

I Khadeer Ahmed Abdul Rahman S/O, Abdul Rahman R/o No 11 6th Cross Changaiyah Compound Krishnappa Garden Bangalore 560041. have changed my name to Khadeer Ahmed

I Farsheed Pasha S/O, Mohammed Yousuff Pasha R/o No 95 1st Floor Itihbcs Layout Chandra Layout 1st Stage 3rd Phase Bangalore 560039. have changed my name to Mohammed Farsheed Pasha

I, Deepesh Singh R/o A010, ozone evergreen, HARALUR road, Bangalore 560102 have changed my minor son name from Divyansh Singh to Yashvardhan Singh

I Impanaa Lokesha D/O, Thimmegowdana Koppalu Lokesh R/o Kattihalli, Koppalu, Kasaba Hobli, Hassan-573201, have changed my name to Impanaa Lokesh

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Bird flu: No cases so far in K'taka

'All breeders, poultry farms following biosecurity measures strictly'

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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Alleviating the fears of bird flu after a few cases were detected in Maharashtra recently, the Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA) has said there is no need to worry as no cases have been reported so far in Bengaluru and across the state.

"It is a viral infection so we cannot predict the chances, but so far, there have been no incidents of bird flu in Karnataka. All the breeders and poultry farms in Bengaluru and across the state are following the routine biosecurity measures very strictly. No one is allowed into the farms except the workers and disinfectants are being sprayed regularly. All the vehicles are disinfected before they enter the farms. Moreover, the birds are already vaccinated as per the prescribed schedule," said Sushant Rai, president, KPFBA.

According to Dr. Anjan Goswami, general secretary, KPFBA, the flu cases in Maharashtra have been reported from only one district at a small broiler farm and the birds are being culled as precautionary measures.

"A few days have passed since the cases first appeared in Maharashtra and we are seeing no further expansion in the infection. While from the farmer's perspective this itself is a piece of welcoming news, from the consumer's perspective too, there is not much to worry about. It is an influenza virus that keeps manifesting itself in the birds. Influenza is common in human beings too and has been there for over 100 years. Moreover, no cases have been detected in Bengaluru or anywhere else in the state and there is no need for farmers or consumers to panic," said Dr. Goswami.

State poultry farmers & breeders forum says all protocol in place

> **No one is allowed into the farms except the workers and disinfectants are being sprayed regularly. Moreover, the birds are already vaccinated**
> –Sushant Rai, KPFBA president

The association says that the biosecurity protocol at every broiler farm in Karnataka, irrespective of its size or breeding facility, is very strict and breeders follow the precautionary measures to the letter.

"The biosecurity rules in Karnataka are very stringent. Moreover, the ongoing influenza virus in Maharashtra is well controllable with these protocols. To add to that, this virus leads to horizontal transmission only. It essentially means that it is not being transmitted from one generation to another but can only spread within the population of one generation. We understand that the birds are going to be part of human food, and thus we follow every measure to ensure that they are healthy. The farming practices in this part of the country, including Karnataka, are of high standards," said Dr. Goswami.

Pay hike on the cards for CM, MLAs

The Karnataka Legislative Assembly on Tuesday passed bills enhancing salaries and allowances of Chief Minister, Ministers and legislators.

Amidst the din of protests by Opposition, the House passed the two bills- The Karnataka Ministers Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2022 and The Karnataka Legislature Salaries, Pensions and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2022, and adopted the motion of thanks to Governor's address, without any discussion.

The bills were moved by the government citing that they are long pending and a considerable increase in the cost of living as the reasons. The hikes will result in a recurring, additional expenditure of approximately Rs 92.4 crore per annum.

The bill on Ministers salaries and allowances proposes to increase the salary of the Chief Minister from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000 per month, salary of Ministers from Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000, and sumptuary allowance for both will be increased from Rs three lakh to Rs 4.50 lakh per annum.

It also proposes to increase the house rent allowance of Ministers from Rs 80,000 per month to Rs 1.20 lakh, while allowance for maintenance and upkeep of residence and layout and maintenance of gardens has been increased from Rs 20,000 per month to Rs 30,000.

Meanwhile, the bill on Legislature salaries, pensions and allowances, proposes to increase the monthly salary of the Legislative Assembly Speaker and Legislative Council chairperson from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, while the monthly salary of the Leaders of the Opposition has been increased from Rs 40,000 to Rs 60,000. **—BMB & Agencies**

Assembly adjourned over protest

The Assembly Session has been adjourned till March 4 amid Congress MLAs' protest over Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj K S Eshwarappa 'saffron flag at the Red Fort' remark. The session will be re-convened next month for the budget session when Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai will present his maiden budget.

Soon after the proceedings began, Congress MLAs started protesting and raising slogans demanding sacking of Minister Eshwarappa. At this, Speaker Vishveshwara Hegde Kageri made a futile attempt of pacifying the agitating members and requesting them to allow a question and answer session.

When his repeated requests went in vain, an upset Speaker accused the Congress MLAs of wasting five days of the session already.

Opposition leaders' out of their chairs to protest at Vidhana Soudha on Tuesday

Victim's sister appeals against fanaticism; 6 held for murder

4 of arrested directly involved in Bajrang Dal worker's murder case: Police

#SHIVAMOGGA

Six people have been arrested in connection with Bajrang Dal activist Harsha murder case here while some are at large, a senior police officer said on Tuesday, as stray incidents of arson and violence were reported in the city this morning.

The victim's sister rued the "brutal" manner in which Harsha was killed and appealed to people to give up fanaticism. She also wondered if there was no value for humanity.

The 28 year-old Harsha was stabbed to death on Sunday night here leading to clamping of prohibitory order even as the city witnessed arson, violence and stone pelting.

"We have arrested Mohammed Kashif, Syed Nadeem, Ashifullah Khan, Rehan Khan, Nehal and Abdul Afnan in connection with the case. All are aged between 20 to 22 years, except Kashif who is 32. They are all residents of Shivamogga," Superintendent of Police BM Lakshmi Prasad told reporters.

He said these people were earlier staying together but were now living separately. Kashif has some criminal cases against him.

According to Prasad, a few more are involved in the case and a manhunt has been launched to track them.

"We are getting lot of information. We are checking the veracity of the claim before making part of our investigation," the officer said.

He also said that four of the accused were directly involved in the case while two others were part of the conspiracy.

The police officer said 12 more people were detained and questioned but their role did not come to light.

Harsha also had cases pending against him, including for rioting, he said.

Meanwhile, the activist's sister, Ashwini said she has been receiving photos and videos from unknown mobile phone numbers of her brother lying dead in a pool of blood.

"My brother always used to chant 'Jai Sri Ram' and is now no more. Is this the brutal way a person should be killed. Don't they have family members at home. Isn't there any value for humanity," she told reporters.

Ashwini asked people to give up fanaticism.

"My brother is now there (in the cremation ground) because he always spoke about Hindu-Hindutva. I appeal to all my brothers and sisters, to the Muslims and Hindu-- that you should be good children of your parents and do not indulge these things," she said without elaborating.

Following Harsha's killing, the city witnessed violence, arson, stone-pelting and damage to the properties during the funeral procession on Monday that left at least three persons, including a photo journalist and a policewoman, injured. Several two-wheelers were either damaged or torched.

Police personnel have been deployed at every nook and corner of the city. The district authorities have appealed to the people to maintain peace and calm.

Additional Director General of Police C Pratap Reddy said a few vehicles were burnt in Tunganagar on Tuesday morning, despite prohibitory orders which have been clamped under section 144 of the CrPC.

"Following the murder of Harsha, there was a very tense situation in the city and certain surrounding areas. Additional forces were rushed to Shivamogga and lot of arrangements were made by the deputy commissioner and the superintendent of police to ensure that the fallout of the murder does not spread further," Reddy said. —PTI

Children watch Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel conducting a route march as the security has been beefed up after tension in the town over the murder of a Bajrang Dal worker, in Shivamogga on Tuesday

Lack of harmony hindering civic work

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

In fact, road digging was one of the hotly debated topics during the Bengaluru development meet chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in January.

Many legislators complained to the CM that they were facing brickbats from the voters on the bad condition of the roads. They said, one of the common loopholes in the city's infrastructure was lack of coordination among various stakeholders. There are ample examples

BBMP relays a new road. BWSSB or BESCOM gets busy with digging it up soon after

of the BBMP relaying a fresh road. Soon, the BWSSB or BESCOM personnel dig up the newly laid road for laying pipes or cables. The roads are never fixed and hence the life of the newly laid road is short-lived, inconveniencing motorists and residents. During the CM's meeting, this issue was raised by many legislators. Thereafter, the CM decided to constitute a coordination committee. The committee will be either chaired by the CM or chief secretary. So, every new road project will be discussed in the committee where the BESCOM, BWSSB or other stakeholders will get a chance to install their infrastructure needs before the roads are laid. It was agreed that the committee will be meeting regularly and all the road works will be coordinated.

At the moment, there is no word on whether the coordination committee has been constituted or not.

Why the show is off

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

seem to have lost even the regulars: the local crowd.

The manager at 800-seater Sangeet theatre — established in 1978 — Tanveer Ahmed complained that due to covid-19 good films are not being released: "For the past two-weeks no movies were screened. We are following covid-19 protocol set by the BBMP for cinema halls but the public is still scared. We let them in after checking their temperature but the fear of covid spread is still looming."

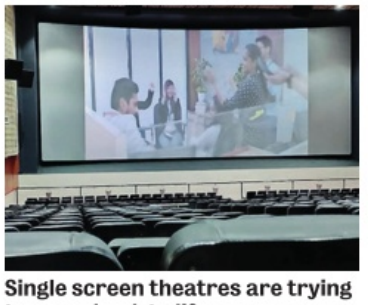
Collections are at an all-time low where expense is outweighing income. Theatres are being forced to cancel shows due to low footfall.

Another single-screen establishment located in Viveknagar - Ravi - that used to be a big hit among the residents in the area, has been shut down for a month now. The plan is to reopen with major renovations to attract movie-goers.

"We have a 650-seater single screen. On average, a full house should get us Rs 1,30,000 per show; now we are barely seeing 10-20 people," said Loknath, manager of the 50-year-old Ravi theatre.

Monthly collections are also seeing a steep fall. In January, Sangeet, which predominantly screens Malayalam films, collected just Rs 50,000; the situation is not any different at other theatres. Most of the establishments have to incur heavy maintenance charges, payments in electricity bills and such. Almost all have at least 10 staff members who need to be paid monthly irrespective of collections. Some places have even resorted to giving half the salaries.

"Out of Rs 50,000, we have to pay Rs 35,000 in electricity bills and around Rs 60,000 as staff salaries," said Ahmed.



Single screen theatres are trying to come back to life

The covid protocol is increasing the expenses too. "We have to provide sanitisers, masks and purchase thermal scanners for employees apart from sanitising the theatre after every show. For this purpose, we have to spend an additional Rs 10,000," said Rajanna, manager at Laxmi Theatre in Tavarekere, a 1,053-seater that screens Hindi, Tamil and English movies.

Rajanna also runs two other theatres in the area — Srinivas (724-seater showcasing mostly Telugu films) and Balaji (722-seater that screens Kannada films) — that report the same problems.

Managers observed that good movies are not being released. "Ever since the third wave, star-studded movies are fewer. Due to low footfall, good movies are not being produced. We see 10-15 people per show and if lesser, we have to cancel. If a good movie comes along, we can see a restart," said Rajanna.

According to managers, movies that used to cost up to Rs 1 lakh are now available for Rs 50,000. But, they don't have funds to buy those either; moreover, now, movies have to be purchased with pre-payment instead of being paid in percentages.

Rajanna added, for this industry to do better, 'work-from-home needs to come to an end'. "Before covid, cab drivers used to come and watch films but now they refrain from spending on entertainment due to low earnings. Even people who used to work 9-5 on weekdays, used to step out and enjoy a movie. The pandemic has put a stop to all of that," he added.

Rajanna complained there has been no help from the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce and received no payment for two straight years. "We are the spine of this industry and we were not supported during this period. It was only after reopening, we started getting payments," he added.

During weekends, though the numbers go up, the tickets are capped at 50.

HEALTH TIP: High on anti-oxidants and having anti-inflammatory properties, ginger can reduce blood sugar levels and improves insulin sensitivity

Regular intake of fish can lower the chances of developing heart disease and stroke

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Berry good hair

Amla, Reetha and Shikakai are the best trio when it comes to haircare

Sukriti Shahi
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We all want our hair to be healthier, thicker, and stronger. The issue of how to grow hair is one that most beauty professionals are sick of hearing—because there is no single correct solution. From putting on every Sephora mask to taking vitamins, most of us are eager to do (or buy!) everything to attain rich hair. However, don't spend your time on pills or items that won't help you. Sometimes the best options are natural ones. Following are some simple remedies to getting the hair you've always wanted.

Ayurveda, as is well known, is a fantastic remedy for all of your bodily concerns, including beauty and hair care. Haircare, on the other hand, has recently become a top concern in everyone's lives. Ayurveda has lauded the virtues of some components that are extremely beneficial and aid in natural development. The three most admired Ayurvedic substances may work wonders for your hair.

These three miraculous elements will do wonders for your hair. Amla Reetha Shikakai will protect your hair from environmental aggressors as well as chemically treated cosmetic items. They provide a slew of advantages for providing natural healing and development to your tresses.

You're probably wondering how these three may aid with natural hair care. Is Amla Reetha Shikakai beneficial for hair loss? Hair loss is the most prevalent condition that everyone faces in modern life.

How can Amla Reetha Shikakai help with hair loss? Is it possible to find Amla Reetha Shikakai shampoo in India? Is it possible to create Amla Reetha Shikakai powder at home? We understand that you are probably thinking aloud and making a lot of assumptions but let us assist you with all of your questions and make your tresses grow organically and appear healthy.

Amla for hair

Have you ever wondered why our elders had thick, shiny, and long natural hair even in their old age? Amla, a potent ayurvedic component, is the key. Amla is often referred to as Indian Gooseberry. Because of its potent herbal characteristics, it is a well-known Ayurvedic component. Amla is high in vitamin A, vitamin C, tannins, and antioxidants, all of which are beneficial to your hair and have no negative side effects. It encourages natural hair growth and reduces hair loss. Because it contains 80 percent natural moisture, it also acts as a nourishing agent.

Preventing hair loss

Because Amla is the best food for hair, massage it into your hair or use Amla hair lep to control early hair fall. Vitamins, minerals, and amino acids boost blood circulation throughout the scalp, promoting healthy hair development and preventing premature hair loss.

Treating dandruff and grey hair

The application of vitamin-C-rich amla hair lep or powder reduces dryness and removes dandruff from the scalp and hair.
Hair greying develops as a result of a lack of sufficient nutrition and sustenance. The usage of amla hair products and amla as a raw fruit in the diet on a regular basis prevents premature greying and enhances hair lifespan.

Reetha, the natural moisturiser

Reetha is a well-known traditional remedy for hair treatment, also known as Arishtak in Ayurveda and Soapnut in English. Reetha is often used in organic hair products since it naturally makes hair beautiful, healthy, and lustrous. It may be used on a daily basis to nourish your hair from the scalp to the tips and to encourage hair development. Reetha is high in phenolic acids and fatty acids, which soften and smooth the hair.

Benefits of Reetha

Reetha Oil for Hair Growth
The anti-inflammatory qualities and fatty acids soothe the scalp by removing dryness and flaky skin. Reetha contains strong cleaning properties that leave your hair dandruff-free, silky, and lustrous. Overall, it encourages hair renewal and maintains your hair health.

2. Reetha for shiny hair

The cleaning property helps your hair become clean and healthy from the scalp to the tips, resulting in smooth and lustrous hair. For dandruff-free, healthy-looking hair, use Mother Sparsh Ginger & Neem Hair Lep, which is filled with strong ayurvedic herbs as well as Amla Reetha Shikakai.

Shikakai for hair

Shikakai, often known as soap pod in English, is a traditional medication used to promote long, healthy hair. For hundreds of years, it has been used as a hair treatment component in India. The Shikakai tree's roots, stems, leaves, and bark are high in vitamins A, C, D, F, and K, which nourish your hair and promote a healthy hair lifespan.

Benefits of Shikakai

Shikakai to promote hair development
Rich in vitamins, antioxidants, and minerals, it nourishes the hair and scalp by promoting blood circulation, leaving your hair healthy and long by preventing premature hair loss and thinning.

Treating dandruff

Fungal growth, dryness, and itching are all controlled by antifungal and antibacterial capabilities. It removes dandruff from the scalp gently and promotes healthy hair development.

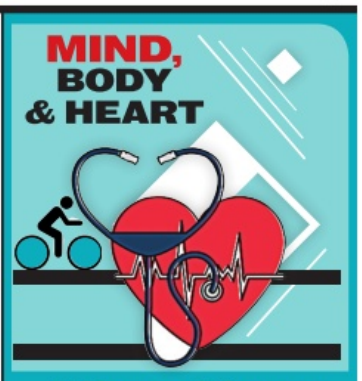
Shikakai for oily scalp

Shampooing your hair on a daily basis is not recommended to remove excess oil or grease from the scalp or hair. It has the potential to remove your natural oils and hydration. So, a hair lep including Amla Reetha Shikakai and essential oils aids with the removal of debris, pollutants, and excess oil from the scalp. As a result, your hair will be healthy and long.

Secret hair mask

The nutritious shikakai mask, enriched with Tulsi, neem powder, shikakai powder, rose petal powder, fenugreek powder, olive oil, and curd, is one such culmination of ayurvedic chosen components for total protection. Because of its antioxidant characteristics, Tulsi, a crucial and important plant in Ayurveda, helps promote scalp circulation.

Neem, on the other side, is an excellent detoxifier that hastens the elimination of impurities from the scalp. To make this nourishing mask, combine a tablespoon of shikakai, half a tablespoon of each neem powder, tulsi powder, rose petal powder, fenugreek powder, one cup of curd, and a tablespoon of olive oil. Allow 30 minutes for the mixture to settle before applying the mask to your scalp. After 30 minutes, wash your hair with regular water and shikakai powder.



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I'm a woman in my twenties and recently I reconnected with a guy I knew at university.
I've always fancied him - he's hot, clever and really funny - but I don't want to be in a serious relationship with anyone right now.
We've started sleeping together, but I've been honest that I'm not looking for anything exclusive because I'm not ready for it.
He agreed and said he was OK with that, but I don't think he's being honest, and I'm worried about seeing him if he's emotionally attached and hoping for more from me.
Is it fair to keep going with this or should I end it before he gets hurt?
I love and respect him as a person and don't want to do anything to upset him. Please help!

COLEEN SAYS

You've been honest, which is good, however if you think he's getting more attached, then the thing to do is bring it up with him and talk about your concerns.

Ask him how he's feeling about it – is he still OK with a casual arrangement? Of course, he might say he's fine with it because he just wants to see you, so ultimately you have to be the judge on whether to keep going.

And, look, he's a grown man and he's capable of making his own life choices, so as long as you're honest, you can't blame yourself if he says he's fine, but then ends up hurt. Just don't lead him on to make him think it will ever be anything more than this, for instance saying things like: "I wonder if we'll end up together."

Keep everything in the present.

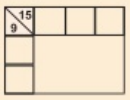
—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

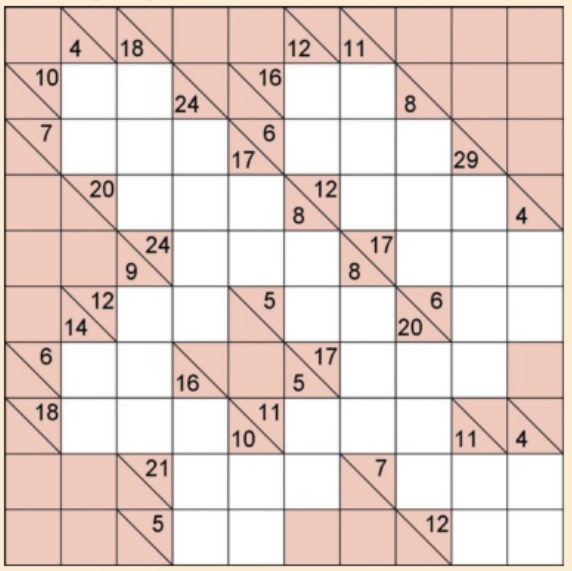
A watch lost two minutes per hour. If on Monday 9 AM the watch was exactly showing 9 AM then what is the time on watch on Wednesday at 9 AM?

Kakuro

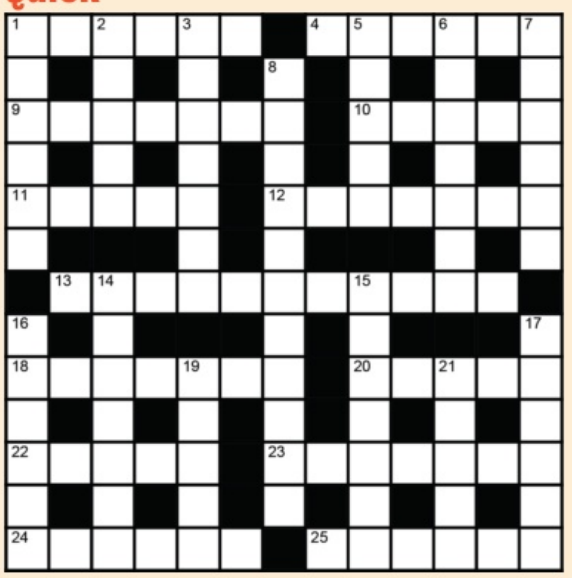
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Type of medieval ship (6)
4 Cunning or skilful (6)
9 Distinguished (7)
10 ___ Akram : Former Pakistani all rounder and captain? (5)
11 Eye shield (5)
12 Number voting (7)
13 Identifying, distinguishing, knowing (11)
18 Tableland (7)
20 Horse's whinny (5)
22 Liquid measure (5)
23 Slow musical movements (7)
24 Firm; unharmed (6)
25 Squanders (6)

DOWN

1 Famous Swiss city (6)
2 Type of waterlily (5)
3 Trade ban (7)
5 Sculler (5)
6 Adorn, hang with wreaths (7)
7 Extremities or boundaries (6)
8 Oblong, not square (11)
14 Rubbery (7)
15 Where three rivers meet in Karnataka (7)
16 Brief periods (6)
17 Dissertation (6)
19 Desert king (5)
21 Imbecile or moron (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: A EQUALS U

RQA TWF UWHV W TYWFTV ZOUY WFR NWF ZYQ DWRK YOK EOGGK QF UONV.

Linemaro

You look like a girl who has heard every pick-up line in the book. So, how's one more going to hurt?

Mindchow

Common sense is not so common

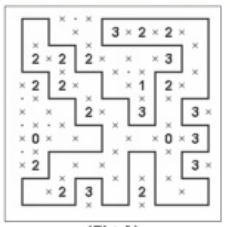
Joke of the day

Come to the dark side – we have cookies

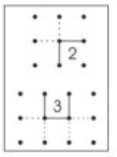
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



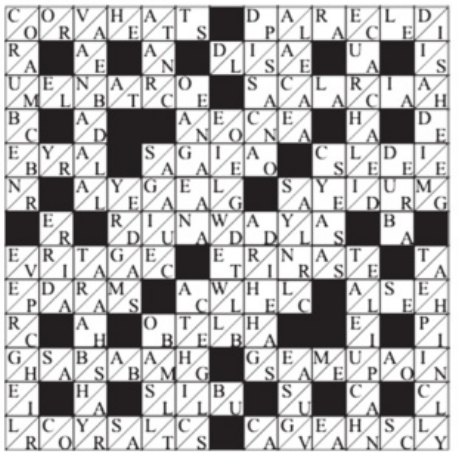
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

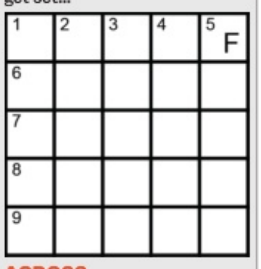
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Sc far; 6 I sine;
7 Rue at; 8 Ref in;
9 Of yam

DOWN

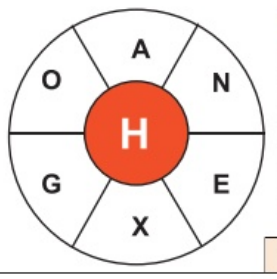
1 SF fun; 2 Coir I;
3 A Nasa; 4 Metre;
5 If Rye

Mensapuzzle

The letters in the grid below can be arranged to form a common 12-letter word. How long will it take you to figure out what it is?

R	T	S
O	E	P
S	O	R
U	P	E

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		7		5		2		
	9		4		2		1	
1		3				7		4
9			5	6	8			7
5			1	2	3			6
8		4				9		2
	5		2		4		3	
		6		9		1		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 14

1 2 2 6

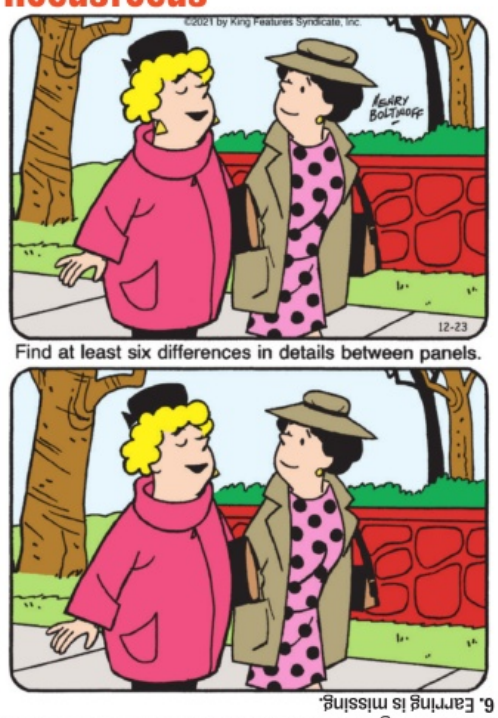
Medium = 61

4 5 8 9

Hard = 8

2 8 8 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Handbag is smaller. 2. Hat is smaller. 3. Arm is longer. 4. Line in sidewalk is moved. 5. Tree is wider. 6. Earring is missing.

Riddler

What has four wheels and flies?

Alpha triangle

1 Iodine for the chemist
2 Infra-red abbr
3 Baron's address
4 Puppy's papa
5 Stand
6 Lampoon
7 Most equitable

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

'Twas the night before Christmas, and visibility was poor due to fog, mist and freezing drizzle.
INCLEMENT CLARKE MOORE
BIZARRO.COM

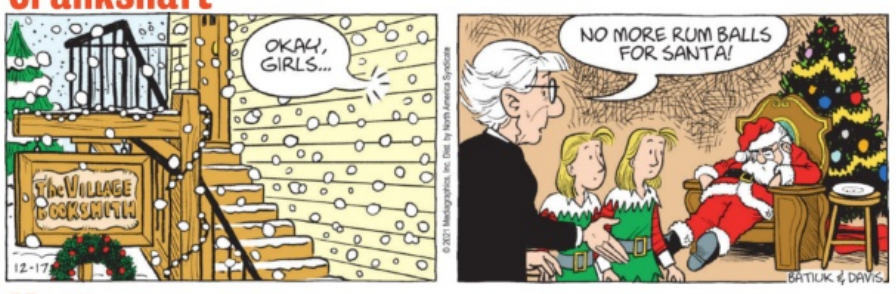
Diamond Lil

IS LIL STILL WATCHING CHRISTMAS SPECIALS?
YUP. TONIGHT IT'S A BELOVED HOLIDAY BASEBALL CLASSIC
A WHAT?
AND NOW BACK TO "HOW THE GRINCH STOLE SECOND"

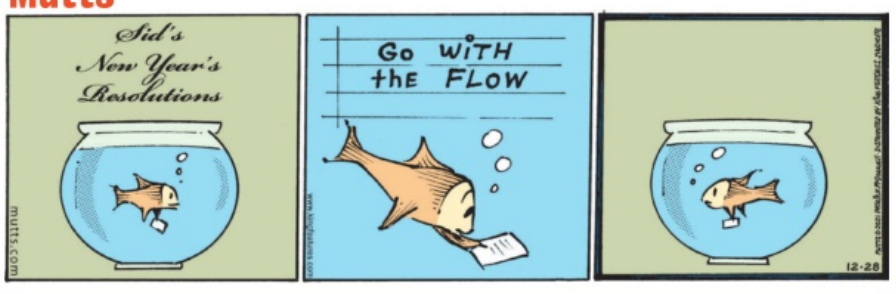
Hart of the city

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HEART!
A CAMERA!?
CHARLOTTE, THE LIMIT WAS ONLY $20!
IT'S OKAY! IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN!
I BOUGHT YOU SOME FILM FOR IT! NOW YOU CAN TAKE REAL PHOTOS!
VINTAGE!!

Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You may feel unhappy and dull. It may affect your way of working. There may be some delay in your projects. It may affect your prestige on the professional and domestic front. Avoid adventurous tours or rash driving. Love birds may break up. Job seekers may be disappointed.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may be busy at work. Your network may grow. It may help you acquire a big order for your business or work. You are likely to indulge in innovation in your partnership. You may receive some investments for your business, which will boost business in the near future. Your emotional bond with your spouse will improve.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may perform your best at work. You may develop a good bond with your boss and receive a promotion. Any health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work. Disputes with siblings may be resolved. Job seekers may find new jobs.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You'll get busy planning your child's education and higher studies. Couples may hear good news in terms of conceiving children. You may want to update your resume and may look into higher studies to help get promotions in the current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Those related to education, consultancy and banking will do better.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel dissatisfied. You may be unable to handle responsibilities. Your investments may incur losses. Read documents carefully before signing any papers. Elders' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house; postpone renovation for a while.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may be busy with your family. You may feel happy and enjoy your time with family or friends. You can expect new sources of income, which can boost your financial health. You may control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You may buy some useful things, which may boost your social status.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Elders' blessings may help you. You may try to improve your patience. Your focus may be back. It may help you to achieve your goals. You may perform well on the business and domestic front. You may be able to boost your savings by controlling your expenditure.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, your internal power may make you happy. You may get small gains in terms of investments. You may develop a good relationship with your boss. You may receive a promotion. Your prestige in society may improve. You may also expect work-related travelling.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
You may feel dissatisfied, dull and lazy. This may affect the speed of your projects or work may get delayed. Love birds are advised to avoid any important decisions in terms of marriage. Job seekers may be disappointed due to interviews.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
You are blessed by the moon today. You may be promoted to a higher position at work due to your hard work. Your performance in work may improve. You may also meet an influential person who may give you good advice to improve your life. You may manage domestic issues very easily, which may boost harmony in the domestic life.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be happy and things may be better. You may plan to visit some religious place. This may give you inner strength. You may also donate some amount to a religious place or charity. You can expect some overseas travelling for education or work. Couples may find a suitable match. Singles are likely to find their soulmate.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may sense positive vibrations around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You can expect long distance travelling. You will develop faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

KIDZONE

Valeron PV, 7 years, St Joseph Boys High School

Zoya, 6 years, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
2 days*24 hrs*2 min=96 min
96 min=1 hr 36 min
9:00 A.M. - 1:36 = 7:24 A.M.

BULL'S EYE
hang, HEXAGON, hoax, hone

STRIKE OUT

C	O	V	E	T	S		P	L	A	C	E	D		
A		A		E		D	I	A		A		I		
M	E	N	A	C	E		A	C	A	C	I	A		
B		D		A		O	N	E		H		D		
E	R	A		A	G	I	O		C	E	D	E		
R		L	E	G	A	L		S	E	D	U	M		
E	A	R	S		A	L	E	C		A	S	H		
V	I	L	T	A	E		E	R	N	S	T		T	
R		R	U	N	W	A	Y	S		B			I	
G	A	S	B	A	G		S	A	M	P	A	N		
R		A		B	E	L	A		I		I			
E	H		L	I	B	U		A		C		L		
R	O	Y	A	L	S		A	G	E	N	C	Y		

QUICK

G	A	L	L	E	Y		A	R	T	F	U	L		
E		O		M		R		O		E		I		
N	O	T	A	B	L	E		W	A	S	I	M		
E		I		A		C		E		T		I		
V	I	S	O	R		T	U	R	N	O	U	T		
A			G		A			O				S		
R	E	C	O	G	N	I	S	I	N	G		T		
S		L		G				A						
P	L	A	T	E	A	U		N	E	I	G	H		
E		S		M		L		G		D		E		
L	I	T	T	E		A	D	A	G	I	O	S		
L		I		B		U		A		C		L		
S	E	C	U	R	E		W	A	S	T	E	S		

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	R	F
N	I	S	E	I
U	R	A	T	E
F	I	N	E	R
F	O	A	M	Y

RIDDLER
A garbage truck

QUOTE UNCODE
You can take a chance with any man who pays his bills on time.

SUDOKU

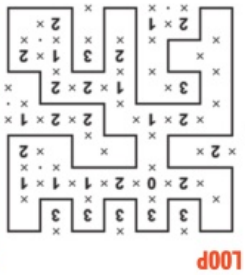
4	8	7	3	5	1	2	6	9
6	9	5	4	7	2	8	1	3
1	2	3	9	8	6	7	5	4
9	4	1	5	6	8	3	2	7
3	6	2	7	4	9	5	8	1
5	7	8	1	2	3	4	9	6
8	1	4	6	3	5	9	7	2
7	5	9	2	1	4	6	3	8
2	3	6	9	8	7	1	4	5

MENSA PUZZLE
Properly arranged, the answer is PREPOSTEROUS

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, IR, Sir, Sire, Arise, Satire, Fairest.

GO FIGURE
Easy
6 × 2 × 1 + 2 = 14
Medium
5 + 8 × 4 + 9 = 61
Hard
2 + 7 − 8 × 8 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO

Volume No 15, Issue No 176 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/21142 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018 and printed by him at Fourth Estate Ltd, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, Bommasandra Industrial Area, Hosur Road, Bengaluru 560099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru 560 018. Email : mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

Tell-all, by Britney

Good news for all the Britney Spears fans as the singer has landed a record-breaking publishing deal for her 'Tell-All' memoir at more than $15 million

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LOVE WITHOUT BORDERS

A look at stars who found cross-cultural love

They say love sees no boundaries and the ones who are meant to be together, always find a way. The same applies to our Bollywood celebrities who have found love across borders. Stars like Priyanka Chopra, Preity Zinta, Shriya Saran and many others have put behind all their cultural and religious differences and have found a way to be together with their respective partners. Take a look…

Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra surprised one and all when she confessed her love for American singer-actor Nick Jonas. After dating for some time, the couple tied the knot in 2018 at Umaid Bhavan Palace in Rajasthan in a lavish wedding ceremony with only close friends and family in attendance. They recently announced the arrival of their first child together via surrogacy. However, they are yet to reveal the gender of their child.

Madhuri Dixit

Bollywood's 'Dhak Dhak girl' Madhuri Dixit broke many hearts when she tied the knot with US-based cardiologist Dr Sriram Nene in an arranged marriage in 1999. The actor is believed to be on the top of her career when she took the decision of tying the knot and settling down in the US. The couple is parents to two boys- Arin and Rayaan. She has now returned to India with her family.

Preity Zinta

After her sour relationship with Ness Wadia, Preity Zinta found love in Los Angeles-based financial analyst Gene Goodenough. The couple dated for about five years before tying the knot in 2016. Pictures of them together on social media are an absolute treat for their fans. The couple recently became proud parents of twins who were born through surrogacy. They have named their bundle of joys Jai and Gia.

Shriya Saran

Shriya Saran married Andrei Koscheev, a Russian tennis player and entrepreneur residing in Barcelona, in 2018. They both first met in the Maldives. Back then, Andrei doesn't know Shriya was an actress. When he came to know about it, he watched one of her films. And to her surprise, he also took her to the places where one of her film songs was shot in St Petersburg. The couple is now blessed with a daughter, Radha.

Celina Jaitley

Bollywood beauty Celina Jaitly found love in Austrian entrepreneur and hotelier Peter Haag. The actress surprised one and all when she tied the knot with him in 2011. The couple became parents to twin boys born in March 2012. The actress gave birth to a second set of twin boys in 2017, in which one boy passed away due to a heart defect.

Arjun Rampal

After separating from his wife Mehr Jessia, Arjun Rampal found love again in a South African model and actress Gabriella Demetriades. The couple reportedly met for the first time at an after-party of a cricket event. They not only moved in together but have also had a child together whom they have named Arik. Arjun and Gabriella never shy away from expressing their love for each other on social media.

Tiger elated to work with Akshay

Action star Tiger Shroff is on cloud nine after getting to collaborate with the 'Khiladi' of Bollywood, Akshay Kumar on the sequel of 'Bade Miya and Chote Miya'.

The 'War' actor has been a big fan of Akshay Kumar and the project gave him the opportunity to work with the one whom he has admired for a long time. Tiger said, "I am so excited to work on this project which gives me a chance to work with the original action hero/the

khiladi - Akshay Sir! My father always tells me to follow his example and I know I have been his fan for as long as I can remember."

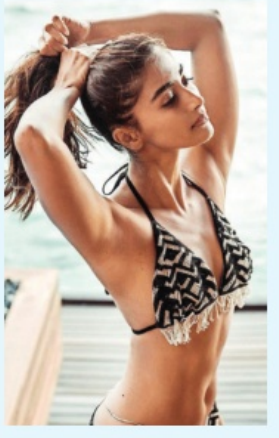
He also praised his friend and producer Jackky Bhagnani, "This project is also extra special because I get to work again with my brother, one of my most favourite people in the industry, Jackky Bhagnani. I am excited to partner with him yet again to push the boundaries of what he has envisioned."

He said he was shooting in London, Jackky was there too and the idea for the film was born when they met. **IANS**

Ensembles excite Pooja

Pooja Hedge, whose song 'Arabic Kuthu' from the film 'Beast' took the Internet by storm, has talked about sporting a look she has never carried before for the number. The actress says experimenting with different ensembles is exciting for her.

The song is composed by Anirudh, written by Sivakarthikeyan and sung by Jonita Gandhi and Anirudh in Tamil. The Arabic theme of her



ensemble reflected in her outfit and jewellery was ccessorised.

Elated at the response to the song, Pooja says, "I was so thrilled to shoot a song that styled me in exotic Arabic looks. Experimenting with different ensembles is exciting for me. The choreography of the song is super groovy and I'm happy that viewers have loved it. It's great to have so many viewers react to the song." **IANS**